

Appl. No. 09/548,024
Amdt. Dated May 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 81800.0121
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, in view of these remarks, are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-10 and 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Maeda. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The claims of the present invention describe a network facsimile machine. An apparatus in accordance with the present invention comprises a capabilities storage unit that stores data for delivery recipients on said second network and stores corresponding reception capabilities for said delivery recipients, and a communication control unit that receives delivery recipient-specifying data over the PSTN, looks up this data in said capabilities storage unit, and transmits a signal over the PSTN declaring reception capabilities of a delivery recipient specified by the recipient-specifying data. Independent claim 1 is as follows:

A network facsimile machine connectable to PSTN and a second network and adapted to receive fax data from a remote machine over the PSTN and deliver the fax data to recipients on the second network, the network facsimile machine comprising:

a capabilities storage unit that stores data for delivery recipients on said second network and stores corresponding reception capabilities for said delivery recipients; and

a communication control unit that receives delivery recipient-specifying data over the PSTN, looks up this data in said capabilities storage unit, and transmits a signal over the PSTN declaring reception

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capabilities of a delivery recipient specified by the recipient-specifying data.

Applicant respectfully submits that Maeda cannot anticipate claim 1 because Maeda fails to either teach or suggest a network facsimile machine that includes "a communication control unit that receives delivery recipient-specifying data over the PSTN, looks up this data in said capabilities storage unit, and transmits a signal over the PSTN declaring reception capabilities of a delivery recipient specified by the recipient-specifying data" as is required by claim 1.

Maeda is directed to an internet FAX apparatus. Maeda discloses Internet e-mail communication through the Internet as disclosed on column 3 on page 13-16. Maeda does not teach or suggest the delivery of facsimile information received by facsimile through PSTN 3 to the computer of the second network 4.

Specifically, Maeda states that "the invention can be applied to a system constituted by a plurality of devices (e.g., host computer, interface, reader, and printer) or to an apparatus (e.g., copying machine or facsimile) comprising a single device" in column 7, lines 6-13, but does not disclose the delivery of facsimile information received by facsimile through PSTN 3 to the computer of the second network 4.

Rather, as described in column 5, lines 60-67 and column 6, lines 1-13, Maeda describes that "in Internet FAX function, Internet address, abbreviation of the other party, and Internet FAX capability are stored in the RAM 12 for each one-touch number. When an operator presses a one-touch button on the operation unit 13, the CPU 5 reads out information (the internet FAX function, Internet address, and abbreviation of the other party) of the corresponding one-touch number." However, Maeda does not teach to deliver facsimile information received by facsimile through PSTN 3 to the computer of the second network 4.

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Maeda also outlines a process of the Internet FAX transmission in column 6, lines 18-35, but does not teach to deliver facsimile information received by facsimile through PSTN 3 to the computer of the second network 4.

In conclusion, Maeda does not disclose the delivery of recipient-specifying data through PSTN 3. Also, Maeda does not teach or suggest that when the delivery recipient data is received through PSTN 3, necessary data such as LAN address of the final recipient as well as the communication capabilities of the recipient is obtained by using the delivery destination table 12 (RAM 12) to declare the recipient's communication capabilities to the sender. As such, Maeda fails to either teach or suggest a network facsimile machine that includes "a communication control unit that receives delivery recipient-specifying data over the PSTN, looks up this data in said capabilities storage unit, and transmits a signal over the PSTN declaring reception capabilities of a delivery recipient specified by the recipient-specifying data" as is required by claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-10 and 13 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 2-10 and 13 is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 includes the limitations of (1) "receiving delivery recipient-specifying data from the remote facsimile machine over the PSTN;" and (2) "transmitting a signal to the remote facsimile machine over the PSTN declaring the reception capabilities of the designated delivery recipient." As such, claim 14 is patentable over Maeda for reasons analogous to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 14 is respectfully requested.

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Claims 15-19 depend from claim 14 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 14. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 15-19 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 11-12 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda (U.S. Patent No. 6,437,873) in view of Oseto (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,797). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Oseto reference discloses a network facsimile apparatus capable of email communications. The network facsimile apparatus 100 includes a system controller 1, a system memory 2, a parameter memory 3, a clock circuit 4, a scanner 5, a printer 6, a display panel unit 7, an encoding/decoding unit 8, an image memory 9, a Group 3 facsimile modem 10, a network controller 11, a LAN (local area network) interface 12, a LAN (local area network) data transmission controller 13, and an internal bus 14.

The Oseto reference does not remedy the deficiencies of the Maeda reference. Namely, neither of the references, alone or in any combination, teach or suggest at least the limitations of the delivery of recipient-specifying data through PSTN 3 or that when the delivery recipient data is received through PSTN 3, necessary data such as LAN address of the final recipient as well as the communication capabilities of the recipient is obtained by using the delivery destination table 12 (RAM 12) to declare the recipient's communication capabilities to the sender.

As such, applicant respectfully submits that claims 11-12 and 20 are patentable over the cited combination. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 11-12 and 20 is respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

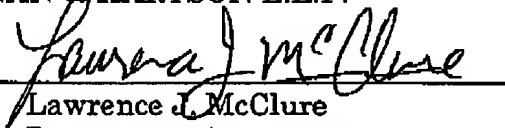
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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By:


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